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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,929	11/19/2003	Rekha Bansal	NMT-8440	6425
26294	7590	07/11/2007	EXAMINER	
TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL & TUMMINO L.L.P. 1300 EAST NINTH STREET, SUITE 1700 CLEVEVLAND, OH 44114			VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1644				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/716,929	BANSAL, REKHA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	F. Pierre VanderVegt	1644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,6 and 22-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040228
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-24 are currently pending.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-4 and 7-21, in the reply filed on November 18, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the claimed invention does not concern antibodies or other inhibitors per se, but rather to the actual inhibition of Factor B. This is not found persuasive because each of the inhibitor molecule types included in the Markush Group of claim 1 is distinct from the other because each is structurally different, being made of a different basic backbone composition, and functionally distinct, in that each of the types of molecules has different binding properties.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. **Claims 5, 6 and 22-24 are withdrawn from further consideration** pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on November 16, 2006. Please note that claim 22 is also withdrawn because it does not read upon the binding molecule of the elected invention.

Accordingly, **claims 1-4 and 7-21 are the subject of examination** in the present Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-4 and 7-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Art Unit: 1644

Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546 (BPAI 1986). They include the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the relative skill of those in the art, the amount of direction or guidance disclosed in the specification, the presence or absence of working examples, the predictability or unpredictability of the art, the breadth of the claims, and the quantity of experimentation which would be required in order to practice the invention as claimed.

The claims are most broadly drawn to the treatment of diseases resulting from complement activation comprising administering an antibody to Factor B. Claims 7-21 are limited by naming various conditions allegedly treatable by the claimed method.

As a first matter, Factor B is a component of the alternative complement pathway and is not involved in the progression of the classical complement pathway. One in the art would not see any method that is specifically dependent upon the inhibition of Factor B as having any relevance in the control of the classical pathway. Accordingly, the claimed invention would only be pertinent to treating diseases resulting from complement activation via the alternative pathway as opposed to treating diseases resulting from complement activation in general.

The specification discloses various in vitro assays that show that anti-Factor B antibodies are capable of binding to Factor B and of inhibiting the complement cascade when initiated via the alternative complement pathway. The specification fails to show, however, the treatment of any condition by using anti-Factor B antibodies or any other reagent. There is no correlation between any disease “resulting from” activation of the alternative complement pathway and the claimed method of treatment. While working examples are not necessarily required in a patent application, the specification must provide a reasonable expectation of success that embodiments recited in the claims are enabled by the specification. The claimed method of treatment is merely centered on a “reach-through” base claim that is based upon an observation that anti-Factor B antibodies inhibit progression of the alternative pathway of complement activation.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1644

Claims 2 and 4 are ambiguous and unclear in the recitation of "fragmented" antibody. Is the claim drawn to "an antigen-binding fragment" of an antibody or to an antibody that has been treated in such a manner to cause it to be fragmented and all fragments of the antibody are included in the "inhibitor?" clarification is required.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "said fragmented antibody" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 4 is dependent upon claim 1, which does not recite a fragmented antibody.

Conclusion

6. No claim is allowed.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0852. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-4:00 and Alternate Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D. /PV/
Patent Examiner
July 6, 2997